

EXPLANATION OF PLATE VII.

Eggs of

- Figs. 1, 3. *Chimarrhornis leucocephalus*, p. 281.
 „ 2. *Phasianus scintillans*, p. 282.
 „ 4, 5. *Pycnonotus leucotis*, p. 281.
 „ 6, 8. *Hypsipetes amaurotis*, p. 282.
 „ 7. *Falco altaicus*, p. 282.

XXII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 163.]

28. *Anderson and Grinnell on the birds of N.W. California.*

[Birds of the Siskiyou Mountains, California: a Problem in Distribution. By Malcolm P. Anderson and Joseph Grinnell. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1903. 15 pp.]

After a preliminary description of the district, which occupies the north-western corner of Siskiyou county close to the Oregon boundary, a list of the species of birds, as determined by Mr. Grinnell, is given, with field-notes by Mr. Anderson. In the "summary" it is stated that the results shew that the Siskiyou mountains are evidently "on the narrow line of mergence between the humid coast-Fauna and the arid Sierran-Fauna. Representative species of these two areas occur in about equal numbers."

29. '*Aquila*' for 1903.

[*Aquila*. A Magyar Ornithologiai Központ Folyóirata. Periodical of Ornithology. Journal pour Ornithologie. Zeitschrift für Ornithologie. Redact. Otto Herman. Jahrg. X. 1903. Budapest.]

The tenth annual volume of '*Aquila*,' the organ of the "Officium Hungaricum Ornithologicum," has made its appearance in good time, and we have to thank our kind friends at Budapest for an early copy. It is printed, as usual, in parallel columns of Magyar and German, and in excellent type, so that there is no difficulty in understanding its contents. Herr Otto Herman's *résumé* of the ten years' work of the Hungarian Ornithological "Centrale" deserves careful study, as does the same writer's full article on the

former existence of the Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) in Hungary, as proved by tradition and proverbs. We quite agree with Herr Herman in considering the restoration of this bird to the European Fauna to be one of the most remarkable feats of recent ornithological work, and we shall be ever grateful to Messrs. Rothschild, Hartert, and Kleinschmidt for their researches. Herr Csörgey's account of his observations on bird-life during his winter residence at Spalato is also of much interest. Other contributions to this volume of 'Aquila' are well worthy of notice.

30. *Arbel on the "Alethe."*

[Note sur l'*Alethe*. Par M. le Dr. Arbel. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. i. p. 15 (1903).]

The author discourses on the "*Alethe*" or *Aleph*—a Bird-of-Prey imported from America and used in Falconry in the 17th Century. The available information on the subject is rather obscure, but the "*Alethe*" is supposed to have been the *Harpagus bidentatus* of South America.

31. 'Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. I. No. 12; II. Nos. 1-3. 8vo. 1903-94. Price 1s. 6d. per number.]

These numbers are chiefly remarkable for a series of articles on the breeding of certain birds in captivity. The species in question are *Mesia argentauris* treated by Mr. R. Phillipps (coloured and plain plate); *Anthropoides virgo*, *Pavoncella pugnax*, and *Ampelis garrulus* by Mr. W. H. St. Quintin; *Leptoptila jamaicensis* by Miss R. Alderson (pl.); and *Polytelis melanura* by Mrs. Johnstone.

In addition to these papers Capt. Horsbrugh writes on birds observed in the Western Transvaal, Mr. W. H. Workman on those of Algeria, and the Rev. F. L. Blathwayt those inhabiting the lochs of West Sutherland. Dr. A. G. Butler discusses *Parouaria capitata* and *P. cervicalis*, the fact of Doves feeding on insects and worms, and the attempts to breed *Tympanistria*; Mr. R. Humphrys gives a coloured plate,

with notes, of *Niltava sundara*; Mr. G. Renshaw an account of *Paradisea minor* at Amsterdam; Mr. F. Finn notes from the Zoological Gardens and on *Æx sponsa* (col. pl.); while the Editor provides articles on the Crystal Palace bird-shows, the *Martineta Tinamou* (Polyandry in birds), and *Pachycephala gutturalis* (col. pl.). The Report of the Council for 1902-3 will be found in vol. i. no. 12.

32. *Bianchi's Memoirs on the Birds of the Russian Empire.*

M. Valentin L. Bianchi, of the Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, has lately sent us separate copies of six papers written in Russian, relating to the birds of the Russian Empire. With the kind assistance of Mr. Dresser and Mr. Delmar Morgan we are able to give some account of these papers, which are, of course, of much importance to all the students of the Palearctic Ornis.

(1) Ornitologischeskie materialui expeditzi dla naoschno-promislavago izsladomanya Murmana 1899-1901. By V. Bianchi. Ann. Mus. Zool. Acad. Imp. Sci. de St. Pétersbourg, vii. 1902. [Ornithological Materials of the Expedition for the Scientific-industrial Exploration of Murman in 1899-1901.]

This is chiefly a list of specimens obtained during the recent exploration of the Murman coast of the White Sea, north-east of the Kola Peninsula, accompanied by some prefatory notes. One adult specimen of *Corvus frugilegus* and one of *Cypselus apus* were obtained, the locality being claimed to be considerably beyond the range of these two species in Russia as previously known. (But see Pearson & Musters, 'Ibis,' 1903, p. 635.)

(2) K. Ornitofaun Mandchurie. By V. Bianchi. *Ibid.* [On the Ornithological Fauna of Manchuria.]

This paper contains particulars of a collection of birds made in Southern Manchuria, with dates and other details. Amongst the species enumerated are *Phasianus torquatus* from Talin, and *Turnix blanfordi* from Port Arthur.

(3) Obsor vidor roda *Acredula* Koch. By V. Bianchi. *Ibid.* [Review of the Genus *Acredula* Koch.]

This is a carefully drawn up table, with descriptions and

specified ranges, of the various species of *Acredula* known to the author. We observe, however, that *A. sicula* of Whitaker (Bull. B. O. C. xi. p. 52, 1901) is not included, and that, on the other hand, *A. dorsalis* Madarász, which we believe to be the same as *A. caucasica*, is treated as a valid species.

(4) Treti ekzemplar *Syrnium wilkenskii* Menzb. By V. Bianchi. *Ibid.* [On a third Specimen of *Syrnium wilkenskii*.]

This note contains particulars of the occurrence of a specimen of this Owl at Maikop, in the Caucasus, on an affluent of the Kuban.

(5) Materialui dla Ornitofaunui Akmolinskoi Oblasti. By V. Bianchi. *Ibid.* [Materials for the Ornithological Fauna of the Akmolinsk Government.]

This paper contains a list of specimens of birds obtained in 1899 in the Akmolinsk Government north of the Syr Daria. About 88 species are enumerated.

(6) Obzor Form roda *Ithaginis* Wagler. By V. Bianchi. *Op. cit.* viii. 1903. [Review of the Genus *Ithaginis* Wagler.]

This is a thorough review of the species of the genus *Ithaginis*, with a synoptical table. Two new subspecies are described, viz., *Ithaginis sinensis michaëlis* and *I. berezowskii*, the former from the northern slope of the Nan-shan Mountains and the latter from the hill-districts of the basin of the Blue River. Of these two subspecies Latin descriptions are given.

33. Bianchi on the Species of Paridæ.

[Catalogue of the known Species of the Paridæ or the Family of Tits. By V. Bianchi. Ann. Mus. Zool. Acad. Imp. Sci. St. Pétersbourg, vii. 28 pp.]

This list contains only the Latin names of the various forms, a few references, and a statement of the distribution. M. Bianchi evidently believes in extreme subdivision, for he recognises 195 species of 24 genera in his subfamilies *Parinæ*, *Paurinæ*, and *Chameinæ*, under the first of which he places the Australian *Xerophila* and *Sphenostoma* and the

New Zealand *Certhiparus*. As might, therefore, be anticipated, the species and subspecies of former authors are placed on an equal footing, while the forms to which trinomials are now applied are those barely to be recognised as distinct. A more misleading method can hardly be imagined, though we are aware that the author is only following other writers. Many well-known appellations are changed, scarcely for the better, and three new races are named, of which *Pardaliparus potaninæ* from Kan-su alone need be mentioned. But, though we cannot agree with the treatment of the family, the list is a careful piece of work, which will serve as a useful *résumé* of the subject. Two or three more forms have since been described.

34. *Bianchi on the Birds of Spitsbergen.*

[Zoologische Ergebnisse der russischen Expeditionen nach Spitzbergen. Ueber die in den Jahren 1899-1901 auf Spitzbergen gesammelten Vögel. By V. Bianchi. Ann. Mus. Zool. Acad. Imp. Sci. St. Pétersb. vii. 30 pp.]

We have here an account of the birds collected during the Russian Scientific Expeditions sent to Spitsbergen in 1899 and the following years for the purpose of measuring an arc of the horizon. Most of the zoological work was done by Dr. A. A. Bunge, who passed the whole winter of 1899-1900 in Spitsbergen; he contributes a most interesting diary of the departure of the last birds of each species in the autumn of 1899, and of their earliest arrival in the following spring. Other members of the expedition who took part in the collecting and observation of birds were Herr A. A. Bialynicki-Birula, Dr. A. Wolkowitsh, Herr Michailowski, and Herr Backlund. Twenty-four species are registered as having been met with, and good field-notes are added concerning them. Amongst them is the Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), of which a single stray individual was captured alive in October 1899.

At the end of the paper is given a complete list of the birds that have as yet been recorded from Spitsbergen and Bear Island—forty-six in all, besides three which are

doubtful. Twenty-two of these have been ascertained to nest in Spitsbergen, while three others probably do so.

35. '*Bird-Notes*.'

[*Bird-Notes*. Vol. ii. nos. 1-10. March 1903 to January 1904. London. Price 6d. each.]

We desire to encourage the study of Bird-life in all its aspects, and it is therefore with pleasure that we say a few words about '*Bird-Notes*'—the Journal of the "Foreign Bird Club" and the "National British Bird Club," of the recent numbers of which we have lately received copies. The Journal appears to be of the same character as the '*Avicultural Magazine*,' to which we have previously called attention, but is, perhaps, of a still more popular nature. However, there is no doubt much to be learned from the study of living birds in cages or in any other kind of captivity, and we welcome every sort of information that can be obtained from these sources. In some cases indeed it has already furnished valuable particulars as regards the food, moult, and breeding-habits of birds, which could hardly have been obtained without its aid. Besides the usual articles, intended mainly for keepers of birds in cages and aviaries, this Journal contains some good illustrations of recently introduced foreign species, with notes on them.

The "Foreign Bird Shows" at the Crystal Palace and elsewhere are duly described.

36. *Blomefield's 'Naturalist's Calendar*.'

[*A Naturalist's Calendar*, kept at Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridgeshire, by Leonard Blomefield (formerly Jenyns). Edited by Francis Darwin, Fellow of Christ's College. Cambridge: at the University Press. 1903. Pp. xx, 84.]

'*A Naturalist's Calendar*' will always be of interest to those who wish to compare the times of appearance of birds with those of the opening of flowers, but it should carefully be borne in mind that the observations are those of a single individual in a limited area, within certain limits of time.

For such a work, however, the late Mr. Jenyns, the well-known brother-in-law of Professor Henslow, and Vicar of Swaffham Bulbeck, in Cambridgeshire, for nearly thirty years during the last century, was peculiarly well-fitted by his care and accuracy, qualities which doubtless obtained for him the offer, subsequently accepted by Charles Darwin, of the post of Naturalist on the 'Beagle' with Fitzroy. It is most suitable that the 'Calendar' should now be edited by one of Darwin's sons, the present Reader in Botany at Cambridge, and the more so as the chief interest of the work is botanical.

In this book the earliest and latest records for the years 1820-1831 are registered and the mean deduced; Mr. Blomefield, moreover, added notices for 1845, which the present editor has extended by including facts for the years 1846-1849 from notes in the author's annotated copy, now in the University Museum of Zoology at Cambridge.

37. Chapman on the Economic Value of Birds.

[State of New York Forest, Fish, and Game Commission. The Economic Value of Birds to the State. By Frank M. Chapman. 4to. Albany, 1903.]

The Protection of Birds is a subject to which, we are glad to say, the attention of many persons is now directed, both in America and in this country, while it may possibly prove one of the characteristic features of the twentieth century. A Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy was created in the Department of Agriculture at Washington in 1886, to which welcome assistance has been given by the publications of the Biological Survey. The Forest, Fish, and Game Commission of New York State has begun to issue a regular Report, in which it calls the attention of every citizen to his duties towards the Birds and, conversely, to the various duties which they perform for him. It is desirable that the position of each species, with regard to its useful or injurious habits, should be ascertained, with the object of enabling the State both

to protect its benefactors and to give the benefit of the doubt in some less certain cases.

In the present Report the subject is considered as it affects (1) the Forester, (2) the Fruit-grower, (3) the Farmer, and (4) the Citizen generally: statistics of the food-habits of many birds are given, shewing their value in exterminating noxious creatures and in spreading useful seeds; while suggestions are made for the more strict enforcement of the laws, the licensing of cats, and the suitable education of children in the love of birds.

A very strong case is made out for the Birds in the course of the argument. A list of other papers on this subject to which reference may be made is added. There are twelve coloured plates.

38. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularise the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Official Organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Vol. iii. pt. 2, 1903. Price 4s.]

No specially striking contributions are to be found in this part of our contemporary, though Mr. F. M. Littler continues his observations on birds peculiar to Tasmania, Miss J. A. Fletcher her notes from Wilmot in the same island, and Mr. T. Carter his list of birds occurring in the North-West Cape Region, with further remarks on *Eremiornis carteri* and *Ptilotis carteri*. Mr. A. W. Milligan describes as new species *Gymnorhina longirostris*, from the Cane and Ashburton Rivers, N.W.A., and *Acanthiza pallida*, from Murchison, W.A., furnishing, moreover, notes on *Gymnorhina dorsalis* and the nests and eggs of *Acanthiza robustirostris*, *A. tenuirostris*, and *A. uropygialis*. Mr. H. E. Hill writes on the Birds of Brookton, W.A.; while in "Stray Feathers" we notice records of bones of the Emu from King Island and an egg of the same bird taken forty years ago in Tasmania, further details of close seasons in Australia, and an account of the nest and eggs of *Xerophila castaneiventris*. The plates (v.-vii.) contain figures of the heads of *Gymnorhina longirostris* and *G. tibicen*; of *Strix nova-*

hollandiæ, with peculiarly adherent down; and a reproduction of a drawing of *Pygoscelis adeliæ*.

39. Hartert on the Palearctic Avifauna.

[Die Vögel der palaarktischen Fauna. Systematische Uebersicht der in Europa, Nord-Asien und der Mittelmeerregionen vorkommenden Vögel. Von Ernst Hartert. Heft I. Berlin: Friedländer. 8vo. Pp. 112. November 1903.]

We have lately spoken in favourable terms of Mr. Dresser's 'Manual of Palearctic Birds,' and praised his steadfast adherence to the old-fashioned binomial system of nomenclature. We now have to record the commencement of another work on the same subject, in which one of our leading authorities on Birds puts forward trinomialism as "the better way," and proposes to give nearly every species three names, or, perhaps, we may even say four, if, as seems to be the case, the authority is always to be added to the name itself. Mr. Hartert calls the Raven "*Corvus corax* L.," Mr. Dresser calls it "*Corvus corax*." In spite of Mr. Hartert's ingenious arguments in favour of the new plan, we prefer the simpler and shorter name. We do not, for a moment, say that local forms (for which by far the best and most convenient name is "subspecies") do not exist in Nature. Even Mr. Dresser recognises them in certain cases, such as that of the Dipper (*Cinclus*), of which, in his 'Manual,' ten subspecies are enumerated. But he does not give these ten subspecies the same rank as the full species; he subordinates them to the typical form*, and prints their names in smaller type. In Mr. Hartert's mode of treatment the subspecies are given exactly the same rank as the main species, which is only recognisable by the repetition of the second name, "*Corvus corax corax*." We must say that we much prefer the plan of adding

* We observe that Mr. Dresser makes *Cinclus melanogaster* the typical form of the species. But here, we think, he is wrong. The earliest specific name assigned to the *Sturnus cinclus* of Linnæus was *aquaticus* of Bechstein; and, as we are not tautonymists, the typical Dipper should, in our opinion, be called *Cinclus aquaticus*, and the Scandinavian and other local forms should be treated as subspecies—*Cinclus aquaticus melanogaster*, &c.

“*typicus*” to the name of the type-species, when it is required, to this alliterative system, and to call it *Corvus corax typicus*. At times Mr. Hartert’s plan results in such monstrosities as “*Pica pica pica*” and “*Oriolus oriolus oriolus*,” and becomes almost ridiculous.

Another point in nomenclature on which it is not possible to follow Mr. Hartert is that he boldly disregards the rules of the Latin Grammar, and in spite of its precepts refuses to make his adjectives agree with his substantives in gender. Thus we have such names as *Pica pica hudsonius*, *Uragus sibirica lepidus*, and *Erythrospiza mongolicus*. Surely the ordinary rules of grammar should not be set aside in favour a newly-invented version of the “laws of priority”! We make such remarks with regret, and we are well aware that Mr. Hartert has able supporters with the same views; but we think it quite time that a protest should be made against such doctrines of “priority at any price,” which are now being preached in America and in this country.

In the present (first) part of Mr. Hartert’s work, which contains 112 pages, 184 species and subspecies are included. After an abbreviated synonymy (which, however, always contains a precise reference to the original descriptions), short characters, a summary of the range, an account of the breeding-habits, and other particulars are given. Of the 184 species and subspecies 143 have three names provided for them, and 41 species have two. A large number of the species reduced to trinomials are such as many other authors would consider full species—e. g., *Corvus corax tingitanus*, *Corvus cornix capellanus*, *Pica pica nuttalli*, *Nucifraga caryocatactes multipunctata*, and *Oriolus oriolus kundoo*. But it is an unquestionable fact that many representative species (which our author seems always inclined to lower into subspecies) have stronger distinctive characters than others which are universally granted specific rank. Consider the four species of Bell-birds, *Chasmorhynchus*, which are no doubt descendants of a common parent, yet are absolutely distinguished by salient characters of structure.

Thirteen new subspecies are characterized for the first

time in this part of Mr. Hartert's work,—namely, *Corvus frugilegus tschusii* from Gilgit, *Cyanopica cyanus swinhoei* from China, *Nucifraga caryocatactes rothschildi* from Turkestan, *Garrulus glandarius rufitergum* from Great Britain and Ireland, *G. g. kleinschmidti* from South Spain, *G. g. whitakeri* from Morocco, *Sturnus vulgaris granti* from the Azores, *Eophona melanura migratoria* from S.E. Siberia, *Chloris sinica ussuriensis* from Eastern Manchuria, *Acanthis carduelis britannicus* from Great Britain and Ireland, *A. c. africanus* from Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis, *A. flavirostris stoliczkae* from Gilgit, and *Erythrospiza githaginea amantum* from the Canaries. Among these are two well-known British birds—our Jay and Goldfinch. Can Mr. Hartert say that if British skins of these birds were mixed up with some of their Continental representatives, he would always be able to pick them out?

In respect of genera, we are pleased to say that Mr. Hartert is somewhat more conservative. He even unites, in some cases, genera which are usually regarded as distinct. Under "*Acanthis*," for example, he proposes to join together the Goldfinches, Siskins, Linnets, and Redpolls. We are not quite disposed to agree to this, and, at any rate, we do not see why *Acanthis* of Bechstein (1802) should be preferred to *Carduelis* of Schaefer (1789). The Goldfinch should certainly bear the generic name *Carduelis*, and, in spite of what Dr. Stejneger may have argued (see 'Auk,' 1884, p. 145), *Acanthis* is merely a synonym of *Carduelis*.

But the main point of the book is that the author calls upon us virtually to give up the binomial system, which has been in universal use since its foundation by Linnæus, for a trinomial system. Here we most decidedly decline to follow him. In our opinion the better and all-sufficient scientific name for the Raven is simply "*Corvus corax*," not "*Corvus corax corax* L.;" and we shall continue to call it so. We shall, no doubt, be stigmatized by some of our friends as "fossils" and "antediluvians"; but we believe that the great majority of sober-minded ornithologists, in spite of the efforts of the new school, will stick to the binomial system.

40. *Le Souëf's 'List of Birds' Eggs and Nests.'*

[Collection of Australian Birds' Eggs and Nests in the possession of D. Le Souëf. 4to. Melbourne.]

Mr. Le Souëf sends us a copy of a list of his Collection of Australian Birds' Eggs and Nests, which, we believe, is one of the best in the new Commonwealth. The scientific and English names are given in parallel columns; and a few remarks are added, referring mostly to the publications in which the nests and eggs have been described. The egg of the extinct Tasmanian Emu (*Dromæus diemenensis*), "taken about 1865 in N.E. Tasmania," is a great rarity. We are not aware that this name has appeared in print before.

41. *Lodge's 'Pictures of Bird-life.'*

[Pictures of Bird-life in Woodland, Meadow, Mountain, and Marsh. By R. B. Lodge. 4to. London: Bousfield & Co., 1903. Price 27s. 6d. net.]

In this volume Mr. Lodge gives a most pleasing account of his ornithological experiences in various parts of Britain and Western Europe. As might be expected from so good a photographer, his three chapters on that art as practised by naturalists are admirable; and therein he strongly decries indiscriminate slaughter of specimens and taking of eggs. The copious illustrations are excellently clear and life-like, though the eight coloured plates hardly please us so much as the others.

With regard to the letterpress, the chapters on Bird-life in the Dutch Marshes, the Spanish Marisma, and the Fjords and Forests of Denmark leave little to be desired; while they afford vivid pictures of those regions and their feathered inhabitants, and give evidence throughout of the careful nature of the author's observations. The chapter on Bird-life in a suburban parish might, however, have well been omitted as more suitable for tyros than for experts, the information being commonplace, and several of the facts, though doubtless true in individual instances, certainly not of universal application. For instance: the Nuthatch is not shy at all times of year; birds which nest in holes

do not almost invariably lay white eggs; the Stock-Dove does not always nest in hollow trees, nor the Nightingale on the ground. Again, in the interesting and generally accurate accounts of the Lincolnshire Mudflats, the Birds of the Farne Islands, the Norfolk Broads, and the Derbyshire Dales, a few misleading statements occur, such as that of the Lesser Tern formerly breeding on the Farne Islands (instead of the neighbouring Ross Links); while the Little Bustard is said (p. 207), doubtless by a slip of the pen, to have bred in Britain.

Among many beautiful illustrations, we may notice the vignette of the "Stork klappering" (p. 251) as an instance of the great advantage of photography to ornithologists.

42. Loudon on the Crested Larks of Turkestan.

[Zur Kenntniss der west-turkestanischen Repräsentanten der Gattung *Galerida*. Von Harold Baron Loudon. Ornithol. Jahrb. xiv. pp. 171-174.]

Baron Loudon writes on the Crested Larks of Turkestan, among which he recognises three forms—*Galerida magna* (Hume), *G. cristata ivanowi*, subsp. nov., and *G. c. magdæ*, subsp. nov. He describes the characters and ranges of these three birds.

43. Nelson on new Birds from Mexico.

[Descriptions of new Birds from Southern Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvi. p. 151 (1903).]

The "new birds," all from various localities in South-western Mexico, are named *Geotrygon albifacies rubida*, *Dactylortyx thoracicus sharpei*, *Syrnium occidentale lucidum*, *Xiphocolaptes emigrans omiltemensis*, *Cyanolyca mirabilis*, *Aphelocoma guerrensis*, *Vireolanus melitophrys goldmani*, *Geothlypis chapalensis*, *Thryophilus sinaloa russeus*, *Troglodytes brunneicollis nitidus*, *Henicorhina leucophrys festiva*, *Hemiura leucogastra musica*, and *Sialia mexicana australis*.

44. Oberholser on the American Great Horned Owls.

[A Revision of the American Great Horned Owls. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxvii. pp. 177-192 (1904).]

Mr. Oberholser adopts Mr. Stone's "revolutionary" view

(see 'Auk,' xx. p. 272) as to *Asio* being the "proper name" of the Great Horned Owls. Our old friend "*Bubo virginianus*" consequently disappears in favour of "*Asio magellanicus*," which is now divided into 17 subspecies, spread over the American continent. Of these, *A. m. mesembrinus* from Costa Rica, *A. m. melanurus* from Mexico, *A. m. icelus* from California, *A. m. lagophonus* from Washington and N. Oregon, *A. m. heterocnemis* from Labrador, and *A. m. algistus* from Alaska are now described as new subspecies.

45. Oberholser on the Wrens of the Genus *Troglodytes*.

[A Review of the Wrens of the Genus *Troglodytes*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxvii. pp. 197-210. Washington, 1904.]

The genus called *Troglodytes* in the present paper (as in the American 'Check-list') is not, it must be recollected, the exact group to which our well-known European Wren belongs, but a purely Neogæan group, of which the type is *Troglodytes ædon*, the "House-Wren" of N. America. The 'Check-list' uses "*Anorthura*" as the generic name for *Troglodytes hyemalis*, which is a close ally of our European Wren: but the fact is that the two groups are barely separable generically, and, in our opinion, may be united under "*Troglodytes*."*

According to Mr. Oberholser the American group of Wrens allied to *T. ædon*, to which he restricts the generic name *Troglodytes*, contains about 37 species and subspecies, which range all over the New World down to Cape Horn (*T. hornensis*). Mr. Oberholser assigns, probably quite correctly, several West-Indian species that have hitherto been placed in *Thryothorus* to the present genus. The widely-spread *T. musculus* is subdivided into 15 subspecies, of which the following three are described as new:—*T. musculus acosmus* from Chili, *T. m. atopus* from Santa Martha, and *T. m. enochrus* from Peru. *Troglodytes browni* (Bangs, Pr. N.E. Zool. Cl. iii. p. 53, 1892) is elevated to generic rank

* Cf. remarks, Ibis, 1902, p. 527.

under the new name *Thryorchilus*. It is stated to have only 10 tail-feathers (?).

46. *Oberholser on a new Swallow.*

[A new Cliff-Swallow from Texas. By Harry C. Oberholser. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvi. p. 15 (1903).]

Petrochelidon lunifrons tachina, from S.W. Texas, is described as a new subspecies.

47. *Oberholser on a new Greenlet.*

[Description of a new *Vireo*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvi. p. 17 (1903).]

Vireo belli medius is intermediate between *V. belli belli* and *V. belli pusillus*.

48. *Oberholser on a new Marsh-Wren.*

[Description of a new *Telmatodytes*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvi. p. 149 (1903).]

The new subspecies, proposed to be called *Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus*, is from Texas.

49. *Oberholser on the North-American Astragalinii.*

[The North-American Forms of *Astragalinus psaltria* (Say). By Harry C. Oberholser. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvi. p. 113 (1903).]

The author maintains that there are but two distinguishable subspecies of *Astragalinus psaltria* in North America—*A. p. p.* from Mexico, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado, and *A. p. hesperophilus* (!) from the South-western U.S. and N.W. Mexico. He rejects three of Mr. Ridgway's recently proposed subspecies of *Astragalinus*, and says that they all breed together in Colorado.

50. *Oustalet and Grandidier on a new Rail.*

[Description d'une nouvelle espèce d'Oiseau, type d'un genre nouveau, provenant de Madagascar. Par MM. E. Oustalet et G. Grandidier. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. 1903, no. 1, p. 10 (1903).]

This curious bird, at first supposed to be "an aberrant Passerine form possessing some analogies with *Brachy-*

pteracias," has been ultimately referred, not without some doubt, to the Rallidae, under the name of *Monias benschi*. The specimen was obtained in the environs of Vorendreo, 25 kil. east of Tuléar, in Madagascar.

51. Parrot on his Ornithological Excursion to Egypt.

Ornithologische Wahrnehmungen auf einer Fahrt nach Aegypten. Von Dr. Parrot. Jahresh. Ornithol. Ver. München, iii. pp. 89-138 (1903).]

Dr. Parrot gives a full and lively account of a three weeks' tour in Egypt in April and May 1902, and shews us that an active and intelligent observer may do much even in that short space of time. After describing the numerous occurrences of migrating birds observed during the passage to Port Said, he relates his ornithological experiences at Cairo and its neighbourhood, and his return home by Alexandria and Trieste. His field-notes, arranged in classified order, relate to upwards of 60 species, amongst which he is so fortunate as to be able to include observations on *Merops viridissimus*, *Pycnonotus arsinoe*, *Hypolais pallida*, and other attractive species.

52. Perkins on the Birds of the Hawaiian Islands.

[Fauna Hawaiiensis; or the Zoology of the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Isles. Edited by David Sharp, M.B., F.R.S.—Vol. I. Pt. iv. Vertebrata. By R. C. L. Perkins. Cambridge, 1903.]

Although we may not quite agree with all the views put forward by Mr. Perkins, every ornithologist will allow that he has included in the present memoir a very valuable series of notes on the Hawaiian avifauna.

After some good introductory remarks, in which the peculiar Passerines of the Hawaiian group are specially dealt with, the author goes through the whole Avifauna *seriatim*, beginning with the Passeres and ending with the Petrels and Gulls, and gives us the results of his valuable experiences during the many years which he has devoted to its study. The distribution of the representative species in the various islands of the Archipelago is specially attended to; and the mode of nesting and the eggs, where known, are

carefully described. The Drepanididae, certainly the most singular and attractive of all the Hawaiian groups, are discussed at length; and though we may not entirely adhere to the author's theories as to their origin and descent, this part of the memoir is well worthy of serious study.

On the whole, we consider that Mr. Perkins deserves great credit for the present paper, which affords evident proofs of his industry and acuteness. Considering the enormous number of other forms of animal life to which he had to devote his time, it is wonderful that he was able to devote so much attention to the Class of Birds.

53. *Pichot on Birds used in Sport.*

[Les Oiseaux de Sport par Pierre-Amédée Pichot. 4to. Paris, 1903. 206 pp.]

This is a pleasant and instructive book, enriched by no less than 51 plates and smaller illustrations. After a few pages of general information, the author enters upon his main subject with accounts of Falconry and Falconers, Cormorant-fishing, Cock-fighting, Pigeon-flying, and Pigeon-shooting. He next describes in greater detail the Falconry establishments at Beauchamp (M. Barrachin) and at Berek (M. Belvalette), and follows with sections on professional and other renowned falconers—Col. Thornton in France under the Consulate, Lord Lilford, Major Fisher, Mr. T. J. Mann, the Hon. Cecil Duncombe, and the Rev. W. Willimott. Succeeding chapters are entitled “Les Chasses d’un Emir au xii^e siècle,” “Les Chasses au Levrier et au Faucon chez les Kirghises,” and “Les Animaux historiques.” An appendix treats of Falconry at the Paris Exhibition of 1900.

Readers of ‘The Ibis’ will appreciate the great esteem in which our late President was held in France, the account of Lord Lilford filling twelve pages (with a portrait).

54. *Reichenow's ‘Birds of Africa.’*

[Die Vögel Afrikas von Ant. Reichenow. Zweiter Band, Zweite Hälfte. Neudamm: J. Neumann, 1903.]

The issue of the second half of the second volume of

Prof. Reichenow's important undertaking, which took place in June last year, claims our attention, though there is little more to be said of the system of the work as a whole than has been stated in our previous notices ('Ibis,' 1901, p. 732, and 1903, p. 129).

After concluding the account of the African Swifts, which are here called "Macropterygidae," though the typical genus is termed *Apus* (*Cypselus*), the grand array of Passeres is commenced with the Pittidæ and the Hirundinidæ—of which 49 species are included in the African List. We are sorry to see the Sand-Martins designated "*Riparia*" and the House-Martins "*Delichon*," as we do not allow the necessity for such inconvenient changes in nomenclature. The Muscipidæ are placed next. This is a very numerous family in Africa, and upwards of 100 species are recognised. The Campephagidæ follow with 14 and the Laniidæ with 115 species. Here, again, "*Pomatorhynchus*" is preferred to the well-known name "*Telephonus*," and "*Coracina*" is used in place of *Graucalus*—two objectionable alterations*. The Corvidæ, Dieruridæ, Artamidæ, and Sturnidæ come next in order and conclude the series in this volume, which is terminated by a set of useful maps with the localities plainly marked and by 10 coloured plates. In this and in the preceding volume together 1297 species and subspecies have been treated, the subspecies being recognisable only by their three names.

55. *Report of the Ornithological Union of Munich.*

[Dritte Jahresbericht des Ornithologischen Vereins München (E. V.) für 1901 und 1902; herausgegeben von Dr. Med. C. Parrot. Munich, 1902. 1 vol. 8vo. 392 pp.]

We have only lately become acquainted with the existence of an Ornithologists' Union at Munich, the third Report of which is now before us, two former volumes having been issued for 1897-8 and 1899-1900. The first portion of it contains the minutes of the meetings of the Society, together

* The type of Vieillot's genus *Coracina* is the "*Col-nud*" of Buffon, so that this term is merely a useless synonym of *Gymnoderus*.

with a list of its members. The appended memoirs and papers all relate to Bavarian ornithology, with the exception of Dr. Parrot's narrative of his recent expedition to Egypt and his account of its results, which we have noticed under that author's name. He appears to be one of the most active members of the Union, to which we wish every success.

56. Ridgway on new North-American Birds.

[(1) Descriptions of new Genera, Species, and Subspecies of American Birds. By Robert Ridgway. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvi. p. 105 (1903).

(2) Diagnosis of some new Forms of American Birds. By Robert Ridgway. *T. c.* p. 167.]

These "new forms" are to be included in the third volume of Mr. Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America' (see 'Ibis,' 1903, p. 261), but as the issue of that volume has been unavoidably delayed, it has been thought better to publish the descriptions at once:—*Budytes flavus alascensis* (Western Alaska), four new genera of Swallows—*Alopochelidon* (type *Hirundo fucata*), *Orochelidon* (type *Petrochelidon murina*), *Diplochelidon* (type *Hirundo melanoleuca*), and *Lamprochelidon* (type *Hirundo euchrysea*),—*Stelgidopteryx salvini* (Mexico and Central America), *Vireosylva gilva brewsteri* (N.W. Mexico), *V. josephæ costaricensis* (Costa Rica), *Vireo huttoni cognatus* (Lower California), *V. huttoni mexicanus* (South Mexico), *V. belli arizonæ* (Arizona), *Pachysylva ochraceiceps pallidipectus* (S. Honduras to Chiriqui), *Vireolanus pulchellus viridiceps* (Veragua), *Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi* (San Clemente Island), *Aphelocoma unicolor caelestis* (Guatemala), *Bæolophus inornatus restrictus* (California), *B. i. murinus* (Puget Sound), *Psaltriparus minimus saturatus* (Puget Sound), *Chamaea fasciata rufula* (Central California), *Polioptila nelsoni* (S.E. Mexico), *P. bairdi* (W. Nicaragua and Costa Rica), *P. superciliaris magna* (Costa Rica), *Telmatodytes palustris iliacus* (Mississippi Valley), and *Heleodytes nelsoni* (Mexico).

In a second paper Mr. Ridgway characterizes nine "new forms" in addition to those described in the previous paper.

These are *Thryophilus pleurostictus rarus* (Nicaragua), *T. modestus pullus* (Chiapas), *Salpinctes obsoletus notius* (S. Mexico), *Henicorhina leucophrys castanea* (E. Guatemala), *H. l. berlepschi* (W. Ecuador), *H. hilaris bangsi* (Colombia), *Cistothorus polyglottus lucidus* (Panama), *Salpinctes obsoletus exsul* (San Benedicte I.), and *Salpinctes maculatus* (N. Guatemala).

57. Riley on a new Quail-Dove.

[Description of a new Quail-Dove from the West Indies. By J. H. Riley. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvi. p. 13 (1903).]

Geotrygon sabæ from Saba Island, W.I., allied to *G. mystacea*, is described as distinct.

58. Rothschild and Hartert on Papuan Birds.

[Notes on Papuan Birds. By W. Rothschild and E. Hartert. Nov. Zool. vol. x. pp. 435-480.]

The authors continue (see above, p. 160) their valuable notes on the specimens of Papuan birds in the Tring Museum, to which an addition has recently been made by the receipt of a new collection formed by Messrs. Meek and Eichhorn at Avera on the Aroa River, north of Redsear Bay, British New Guinea.

The Meliphagidæ, an abundant family in New Guinea, are first reviewed, and the following forms are described as new:—*Ptilotis aruensis sharpei*, *P. chrysolis saturatior*, *P. chrysolis madaraszii*, and *P. finschi*. *Eufa maculata* is a new genus and species, allied to *Ptilotis*, but with a shorter and wider bill. Altogether 52 species of Meliphagidæ are mentioned. Eleven species of *Zosterops* from the Papuan Subregion are next enumerated. The Papuan Hirundinidæ are only 3. Of the Papuan Muscicapidæ 92 species are commented upon, and *Micræca griseiceps occidentalis*, *Gerygone neglecta dubaryi*, and *Todopsis cyanocephalus dohertii* are characterized as new. The article concludes with some additional remarks on certain Dicæidæ, Laniidæ, and Timeliidæ, three families which have been already treated.

59. *Shufeldt on the Osteology of the Limicolæ.*

[Osteology of the Limicolæ. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. Ann. Carnegie Mus. vol. ii. pp. 15-70, pl., cuts.]

Dr. Shufeldt here gives us a very full account of the Osteology of the Limicolæ, chiefly derived from the study of *Vanellus*, *Charadrius*, *Ægialitis*, *Numenius*, *Phalaropus*, *Tringa*, and its nearest allies, *Scolopax*, *Gallinago*, *Aphriza*, and the Parridæ. In different directions he traces affinities to the Laridæ, Ibididæ, Eurypygidæ, Rallidæ, and Tubinares, while his ideas of the mutual relationships of the respective forms will be seen at a glance from his table.

60. *Snodgrass and Heller on Birds from the Galapagos.*

[Papers from the Hopkins-Stanford Galapagos Expedition, 1898-1899. XVI. Birds. By R. E. Snodgrass and E. Heller. Proc. Washington Acad. of Sc. v. pp. 231-372 (1904).]

This is an elaborate essay on the birds collected in the various islands of the Galapagan Archipelago by the Naturalists of the "Hopkins-Stanford Expedition" of 1898-9, and now deposited in the Museum of the Leland-Stanford-Junior University at Palo Alto, California. The species of which specimens have been obtained in the Galapagos by other collectors (but not on this occasion) are inserted in their places, so that we have here a complete account of the peculiar Avifauna up to date, which may be compared with those of Mr. Ridgway (Pr. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. xix., 1896) and of Messrs. Rothschild and Hartert (Nov. Zool. vol. vi., 1899).

A few lines of Introduction inform us that the arrangement employed is that of the American Ornithologists' Union, and begins, therefore, with the lowest forms. We observe that even the habitual grammatical errors of that List are faithfully followed. But there is one important amelioration introduced. The "subspecies" are not given *quite* the same rank as the "species," but are designated by letters, *a*, *b*, *c*, &c., added to the number borne by the species. Thus under species "63. *Geospiza fortis*" we find ranged 63 *a*. *Geospiza fortis fortis*, 63 *b*. *G. f. fratercula*, &c.

Eighty species of birds are assigned to the Galapagan Avifauna in this memoir, besides some 40 subspecies. It will be observed that the original idea of the term "subspecies" being restricted to cases in which intermediate forms occur has here been quite abandoned. There are, of course, no intermediate forms between species confined to different islands, but they are none the less treated as "subspecies."

The field-notes are of great interest, especially those relating to the Geospizine Finches, which appear to have been very carefully studied. They are all placed by the authors in one genus (*Geospiza*), with 18 species and numerous subspecies. *Certhidea*, referred to the Mniotiltide, has 2 species, which are divided into 8 subspecies.

It must not be supposed, however, from what has been said that we do not approve of this piece of work. On the contrary, it is a valuable contribution to a most engaging subject—that of the origin of insular Avifaunas. Next to the Hawaiian Archipelago, the Galapagan group perhaps presents a more favourable opportunity for the discussion of this most interesting question than any other part of the earth's surface. We are therefore grateful to Messrs. Snodgrass and Heller for the pains which they have taken in working out this important collection.

61. *Stejneger on Oreomyza.*

[A new Name for the Hawaiian Bird-genus *Oreomyza*. By Leonhard Stejneger. Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvi. p. 11 (1903).]

Oreomystis is proposed, *Oreomyza* being already occupied in entomology.

XXIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, and Obituary.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

SIRS,—On a recent passage from New York to England I was struck by observing Snow-Buntings (*Plectrophanes nivalis*) on migration in mid-Atlantic. I was previously under the impression that this species migrated practically North and South. That numbers of them apparently cross the